

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 4, 5, 10 and 12-18 and ADD new claim 19 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A reference reason identifying apparatus, comprising:
  - a referred document extracting device extracting document information about a referred document from given document data ~~of a referring document~~;
  - a reference position extracting device extracting information about a position where the referred document is cited in the document data, and a feature in the neighborhood of the position;
  - an identification device ~~analyzing the information extracted by the reference position extracting device and identifying a category of~~ a reason indicating why the referred document is cited ~~in the referring document~~ from the information about the position and the feature in the neighborhood of the position extracted by the reference position extracting device; and
  - an output device outputting output information including the information extracted by the reference document extracting device and ~~the category of~~ the reason why the referred document is cited.
2. (previously presented) The references reason identifying apparatus according to claim 1,
  - further comprising a document information extracting device extracting document information about the document data from the document data, and
  - wherein said output device outputs the information extracted by the document information extracting device together with the output information.
3. (original) The reference reason identifying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said identification device identifies the reason why the referred document is cited based on at least one of information about a chapter to which the position where the referred document is

cited belongs and information about a character string in the neighborhood of the position where the referred document is cited.

4. (currently amended) A keyword extraction apparatus, comprising:  
a referred document extracting device extracting document information about a referred document from given document data ~~of a referring document~~;  
a reference position extracting device extracting information about a position where the referred document is cited in the document data, and a feature in the neighborhood of the position;  
~~an identification device analyzing the information extracted by the reference position extracting device and identifying a category of a reason why the referred document is cited in the referring document~~ from the information about the position and the feature in the neighborhood of the position extracted by the reference position extracting device;  
a keyword extraction device extracting keyword information of the referred document from information in the neighborhood of the position where the reference document is cited; and  
an output device outputting output information including the information extracted by the referred document extracting device, ~~the category of the reason why the referred document is cited~~ and the keyword information.

5. (currently amended) An information retrieval apparatus, comprising:  
a document database device storing document data;  
a reference correlation storage device storing a reference correlation including a ~~reference category of a reason~~ indicating why a referred document is cited by at a position in a specific document based on a feature of the specific document in the neighborhood of the position;  
a retrieval device retrieving the document data stored in the document database device using the reference correlation stored in the reference correlation storage device; and  
an output device outputting a retrieval result including the reference reason.

6. (currently amended) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:  
a referred document extracting device extracting document information about the referred document from the document data of the specific document;

a reference position extracting device extracting information about a position where the referred document is cited in the document data of the specific document;

an identification device analyzing the information extracted by the reference position extracting device and identifying the reference category of the reason why the referred document is cited; and

a device storing information including the information extracted by the referred document extracting device and the reference category in said reference correlation storage device.

7. (original) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said reference correlation storage device stores keyword information of the referred document extracted from the specific document, and said retrieval device retrieves the document data using the keyword information.

8. (currently amended) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said output device includes a display device graphically displaying the reference correlation based on the reference category.

9. (original) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said output device includes a display device displaying the reference correlation in a time series.

10. (currently amended) A document classifying apparatus, comprising:  
a referred document extracting device extracting document information about a referred document from given document data ~~of a referring document~~;

a reference position extracting device extracting information about a position where the referred document is cited in the document data, and a feature in the neighborhood of the position;

~~an identification device analyzing the information extracted by the reference position extracting device and identifying a category of a reason why the referred document is cited in the referring document~~ from the information about the position and the feature in the neighborhood of the position extracted by the reference position extracting device;

a similarity identification device calculating a similarity in reference correlation based on ~~the category of the reason~~ indicating why the referred document is cited, between a plurality of pieces of document data, and classifying the plurality of the pieces of the document data; and

an output device outputting a classification result.

11. (previously presented) The document classifying apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a keyword extraction device extracting keyword information of the referred document from information in the neighborhood of the position where the referred document is cited, and

wherein said similarity identification device classifies the plurality of the pieces of the document data using the keyword information.

12. (currently amended) An information retrieval apparatus, comprising:  
a database device storing information to be retrieved;  
a reference correlation storage device storing a reference correlation including a ~~reference category of a reason~~ indicating why referred information is cited by a specific piece of information at a position in a document, based on a feature in the neighborhood of the position;  
a retrieval device retrieving information stored in the database device using the reference correlation stored in the reference correlation storage device; and  
an output device outputting a retrieval result including the ~~reference category~~ reason for citing the referred information.

13. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program enabling a computer to execute a process, said process comprising:  
extracting document information about a referred document from given document data ~~of a referring document;~~  
extracting information about a position where the reference document is cited in the document data, and a feature in the neighborhood of the position;  
analyzing the information extracted by the reference position extracting device and identifying ~~a category of a reason~~ indicating why the referred document is cited ~~in the referring document~~ based on the information about the position and the feature in the neighborhood of the position; and  
outputting output information including the information about the referred document and ~~the category of the reason why the referred document is cited.~~

14. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program enabling a computer to execute a process, said process comprising:

retrieving document data stored in a document database using a reference correlation including ~~a reference category of~~ a reason indicating why a referred document is cited ~~by~~ at a position in a specific document, based on a feature of the specific document in the neighborhood of the position; and

outputting a retrieval result including the ~~reference-category~~ reason.

15. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program enabling a computer to execute a process, said process comprising:

extracting document information about a referred document from given document data ~~of a referring document;~~

extracting information about a position where the referred document is cited in the document data, and a feature in the neighborhood of the position;

analyzing the information about the position where the referred document is cited and identifying ~~a category of~~ a reason indicating why the referred document is cited ~~in the referring document,~~ based on the information about the position and the feature in the neighborhood of the position;

calculating a similarity in reference correlation based on ~~the category of~~ the reason why the referred document is cited, between a plurality of pieces of document data, ~~and classifying the plurality of the pieces of the document data;~~ and

outputting a ~~classification result~~ including the reason for citing the referred document.

16. (currently amended) A reference reason identifying apparatus, comprising:

referred document extracting means for extracting document information about a referred document from given document data ~~of a referring document;~~

reference position extracting means for extracting information about a position where the referred document is cited in the document data, and a feature in the neighborhood of the position;

identification means for ~~analyzing the information extracted by the reference position~~ ~~extracting means and identifying a category of~~ a reason indicating why the referred document is cited in the referring document based on the information about the position and the feature in the neighborhood of the position; and

output means for outputting output information including the information extracted by the reference document extracting means and ~~the category of the reason why the referred document is cited.~~

17. (currently amended) An information retrieval apparatus, comprising:  
document database means for storing document data;  
reference correlation storage means for storing reference correlations including a ~~reference category of a reason~~ indicating why a referred document is cited by at a position in a specific document based on a feature of the specific document in the neighborhood of the position;  
retrieval means for retrieving the document data stored in the document database device using the reference correlation stored in the reference correlation storage device; and  
output means for outputting a retrieval result including the reference ~~category~~ reason.

18. (currently amended) A document classifying apparatus, comprising:  
referred document extracting means for extracting document information about a referred document from given document data and a position where the referred document is cited in the document;  
reference position extracting means for extracting information about a position where the referred document is cited in the document data, and a feature in the neighborhood of the position;  
~~identification means for analyzing the information extracted by the reference position extracting means and identifying a reason indicating why the referred document is cited, based~~ on the information about the position and the feature in the neighborhood of the position;  
similarity identification means for calculating a similarity in reference correlation based on ~~the category of the reason why the referred document is cited,~~ between a plurality of pieces of document data, and classifying the plurality of the pieces of the document data; and  
output means for outputting a classification result.

19. (new) A keyword extraction apparatus, comprising:  
a keyword storage storing a keyword of each piece of document data;  
a referred document extracting device extracting document information about a referred document from given document data;

a keyword extracting device extracting keyword information of the referred document from information in the neighborhood of a position where the referred document is cited in the given document data; and

a keyword storing device storing the keyword information as a keyword of the referred document in the keyword storage.